

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 01027 280112Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 SNM-02 /031 W  
-----280627Z 077920 /66-S

P 280016Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9956

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1027

EO 11652 : GDS  
TAGS : PFOR MX US  
SUBJ : PRESS REPORTS ON ARMS SMUGGLING

REF : MEXICO 590

1. EXCELSIOR JANUARY 27 CARRIES REPORT BY WASHINGTON  
CORRESPONDENT PONTE CONTAINING FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

A. MANY OF ARMS ILLEGALLY INTRODUCED INTO MEXICO THAT  
ARE CONFISCATED OR SEIZED BY MEXICAN POLICE AUTHORITIES ARE  
NOT REPORTED AND DO NOT APPEAR ON INVENTORIES, BUT DISAPPEAR  
MYSTERIOUSLY, OR ARE FREQUENTLY USED BY VARIOUS SPECIAL  
GROUPS FOR SPECIAL MISSIONS. THIS STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO "US  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT INTELLIGENCE SERVECE". REPORT CONTINUES  
THAT THE "MYSTERIOUS FATE" OF THESE ARMS EXPLAINS THE IN-  
DIFFERENCE SHOWN BY MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO USG IN MATTER OF  
ARMS TRAFFIC.

B. SAME INTELLIGENCE SOURCE CITED AS SAYING NEITHER  
MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL OR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WERE AWARE,  
DURING ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION, OF WHAT HAPPENED TO ARMS  
CONFISCATED BY MINOR POLICE OFFICIALS.

2. ACCORDING TO PONTE'S STORY, STATEMENTS BASED ON  
OCTOBER 22, 1976 MEMO TO REGIONAL HEAD OF ALCOHOL, TOBAC-  
CO AND FIREARMS DIVISION OF TREASURY SIGNED BY THOMAS G.  
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HUPP. HIS STORY CONTINUES THAT TREASURY ASSIGNED AN  
AGENT TO MEXICO CITY EMBASSY TO ATTEMPT TO REMEDY MEXICAN  
LACK OF COOPERATION, BUT AMBASSADOR JOVA BLOCKED THE  
ASSIGNMENT.

3. PONTE IS AN IRRESPONSIBLE JOURNALIST WHOSE REPORTING  
FREQUENTLY ATTEMPTS TO CREATE DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN MEXICO

AND THE US. STORY SUMMARIZED ABOVE INDICATES, HOWEVER,  
THAT SOURCES IN WASHINGTON MAY BE FEEDING HIM INFORMATION  
TO WHICH HE APPEARS TO GIVE HIS OWN INTERPRETATION,  
AND THIS IS CAUSING US PARTICULAR EMBARRASSMENT HERE AT  
TIME WHEN WE ARE STRIVING TO IMPROVE MEXICAN-US RELATIONS.  
POINT ALREADY MADE IN MEXICO 590 THAT SUCH LEAKS ARE  
HARMFUL, AND THEY BECOME MORE SO AS WE GET CLOSER TO  
MEETING OF PRESIDENTS. WOULD APPRECIATE EXPLANATION  
ON WHERE EXCELSIOR REPORTER IS GETTING HIS INFORMATION  
AND EVEN MORE, WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LEAKS TO HIM CEASE.  
JOVA

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, ARMS SMUGGLING  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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